

The Nordic Race has the following characteristics :—Blondness, wavy hair, blue eyes, fair skin, high, narrow, straight nose, great stature, and a long skull. Its original habitat was the Scandinavian peninsula and the adjoining shores of the Baltic. To-day it overspreads portions of Northern Germany, the Netherlands, Northern France, the British Islands, and parts of Russia. The Celts were a branch of the Nordic stock, but much confusion has arisen from the confusion of the Celtic language with a Celtic Race. Mr. Grant says truly : "As to the so-called 'Celtic Race' the fantastic inapplicability of the term is at once apparent when we consider that those populations on the borders of the Atlantic Ocean who to-day speak Celtic dialects, are divided into three groups, each one showing in great purity the characters of one of the three entirely distinct human sub-species found in Europe. To class together the Breton peasant, with his round Alpine skull; the little, long-skulled, brunet Welshman of the Mediterranean Race, and the tall, blond, light-eyed Scottish Highlander of pure Nordic Race, in a single group labelled 'Celtic,' is obviously impossible. These peoples have neither physical, mental, nor cultural characteristics in common."

Mr. Grant thinks the Nordic Race is in danger of perishing by alien admixture, and that the problem is acute in America. Democracy tends to level classes, to ignore racial distinctions, and to depress the natural leaders of men. "We Americans," he says, "must realise that the altruistic ideals which have controlled our social development during the past century, and the maudlin sentimentalism that has made America 'an asylum for the oppressed' are sweeping the nation towards a racial abyss." That there is some truth in such views cannot be questioned, but the influence of democracy from the genetic point of view is too large a question to be adequately discussed in a review. It is a point of view, however, which should not be overlooked by reformers and constitution-makers. Nature will not be denied and democracy will only permanently prevail if it knows how to choose its leaders wisely.

J. A. LINDSAY.

Dawson, E. RUMLEY. *The Causation of Sex in Man.* H. K. Lewis and Co.; 1917; pp. xiv. + 226; demy 8vo.; 7s. 6d. net.

THIS is the second edition of a book first published in 1909, and is considerably improved both by the addition of new evidence in favour of the author's hypothesis, and by the omission of some of the blemishes by which the first edition was disfigured. The essence of the hypothesis is as follows :—Ova produced from the right ovary give rise to boys, those from the left ovary to girls; normally the two ovaries ovulate alternately, at or about the menstrual period, with the result that after the first child is born, it is possible to forecast the sex of subsequent children by counting the number of menstrual periods that intervene between the birth of the previous child and the beginning of a fresh pregnancy. When menstruation has a regular 28-day period, this can be done by counting the months, since there are very nearly thirteen such periods in the year. Therefore if a boy is born in a particular month this year, a child of the same mother born in the same month next year should be a girl, or in the same month two years later a boy.

A good deal of evidence—some of it good and some of it very weak—is marshalled in favour of the hypothesis, and the obvious objection that children of both sexes may be born after one-sided ovariectomy is answered by producing evidence that ovariectomy is frequently incomplete, and may be followed by the regeneration of functional ovarian tissue. Undoubtedly in some families the children are of the sexes to be expected on the hypothesis according to the dates of their birth, and when exceptions occur, as they very frequently do, they are ascribed to irregularity in the menstrual or ovulation periods.

Our criticism of the hypothesis is that it cannot be finally proved—or disproved—by the sort of evidence that Dr. Rumley Dawson adduces. It is worth testing, but it cannot be tested by mere agreement of the sexes with expectation according to date of birth in certain families, if we do not know how many cases there are in which the expectation is falsified. Coincidence must be ruled out, and this is impossible without more adequate statistical treatment. Further, it should be noticed that if the period is on the average only one day early or late each month, it will be 26 days out after two years, and so will spoil the calculation. What is needed, and would be well worth doing, is to obtain an accurate record of the menstrual periods of a number of mothers, and test the hypothesis not by the agreement or otherwise of the dates, but by the actual number of periods between one pregnancy and the next. Even if this could be done on a sufficient scale, the results might not be conclusive, for ovulation may at times undoubtedly occur apart from menstruation. If, however, the results of such an investigation were largely in favour of the hypothesis, it would at least be raised to the dignity of a serious theory; at present, in spite of Dr. Rumley Dawson's many examples, we feel disposed to regard it as resting on the principle of "heads I win, tails you lose"—the cases which agree with the hypothesis are used to prove it and those which disagree are explained away. Our reason for taking this attitude is chiefly the impossibility of harmonising the hypothesis with other established facts about sex in man, such, for example, as sex-limited transmission by the male, but we strongly deprecate the attitude of saying that anything is impossible on *a priori* grounds, and wish that some unprejudiced person who has the opportunity would attempt to collect really conclusive evidence. Dr. Dawson states that he has 97 per cent. of successes in prediction of the sex of the coming child, and in the face of such a claim the hypothesis cannot be treated as unworthy of consideration if it is founded on a sufficient number of cases. If a few score readers of the *EUGENICS REVIEW* would test the matter in their own families, and record the result, giving the necessary particulars, the question might be finally settled, and if it should happen that the hypothesis were confirmed, a most important step in practical eugenics would have been made. L. DONCASTER.

Trotter, W. *Instincts of the Herd in Peace and War.* London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd.; 1916; pp. 213; price 3s. 6d. net.

THIS volume begins with two essays first published in the *Sociological Review* in 1908 and 1909, in which the psychological consequences of the gregarious habit are discussed in a suggestive and interesting manner. In particular the existence of a specific herd instinct is insisted on, which, together with the three primitive instincts of nutrition, self-preservation and sex, forms the basis of most human actions, aspirations and desires. This instinct in man, as in other gregarious animals, gives rise to a great variety of conduct, a variety which depends in the first place on diversity in the nature and purposes of the herd or society. The author distinguishes three types of herd—the aggressive, the defensive, and the social, exhibited in the wolf, the sheep, and the bee, respectively. He claims that an objective study of behaviour arising out of the gregarious instinct in each type will give an insight into the springs of human conduct exact enough to be a useful guide in practical affairs.

In the third essay, which constitutes the larger part of the volume, the principles previously laid down are tested by applying them to the examination of such phases of human behaviour as had emerged at the end of the first year of the war. Naturally the behaviour of the Boche receives the largest share of attention, involving as it does so many psychological riddles. These Mr. Trotter claims to have answered by comparing the German nation to a pack of wolves.